

accomplished by joining an indicator molecule having a primary amine group to the carrier molecule, thereby forming a secondary amine. The claim language clearly states the relationship of the coupled molecules.

A rejection of Claim 13 as vague and indefinite because of syntax is overcome by adopting the Examiner's suggested rewording of the claim.

Claims 14-24 were rejected as depending from a rejected base claim. These rejections are believed overcome by the amendment to Claim 13.

The amendments are not intended to alter the claim scope, but rather only to address language informalities.

Rejection Under §102(a)

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 were rejected under §102(a) as being anticipated by Hengen. Hengen has a publication date of June 19, 1996. The applicant hereby perfects a claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) by amending the specification to contain a specific reference to the provisional application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(4), as set forth in MPEP §706.02(b).. The application is entitled to claim the benefit of prior provisional application number 60/004,668, filed October 2, 1995.

Accordingly, the Hengen paper is unavailable as a reference against the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under §103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 6 and 9-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengen in view of three US patents. As noted above in connection with the rejection under §102, Hengen is unavailable as a reference against the pending claims. Accordingly, without the primary reference, the rejections imposed under §103 cannot stand. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure

A document disclosed by the applicant was not considered because its date was not available. The applicant cannot readily confirm the earliest date on which the Supelco advertisement was published. However, the advertisement cited on PTO-1449 by the applicant appeared in Biotechniques 20:4 (April, 1996). Consideration of this document is respectfully requested.

Having responded to each ground of rejection, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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